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- 8.—*Deterioration and Race Education. With Practical Application to the Condition of the People and Industry.* By SAMUEL ROYCE. Boston : Lee & Shepard. New York : Charles J. Dillingham. 1878. 12mo, pp. 585.

THE evident earnestness of the author of this volume and the zeal of its benevolent distributor, Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, entitle it to a fair examination. It is surely well worth reading, and it ought to make its mark upon public opinion, while in some respects it deserves the notice of well-informed and thoughtful men. The author would have done wisely if he had kept it a little longer on hand and arranged his ample material more thoroughly and pointed his conclusions more distinctly ; but his book as it is has great value, and it cannot fail to do good, especially in its bold and strong conflict with the narrowness of our dominant schooling and the rabid radicalism of our labor-reformers. The table of contents is of itself a fair expression of the author's way of mixing many things together without definite classification, and of leaving his reader to trace his way for himself. Ninety topics are named in one continuous list in this table, and the view is quite confused in the reader's mind until he does what we have done—until he takes out his pencil and writes here and there the proper figure from one to eight against the rightful headings, so as to make it appear that there are eighty-two topics to be considered under eight distinct divisions. These divisions or parts are "Race Deterioration," "Heredity," "Kindergarten," "The Progress of Civilization," "The Progress of General Education," "The People and their Homes," "The Scourges of Humanity," "The Need of the Nation," the fifth and the last topics occupying the largest spaces. Yet these various topics are not kept wholly apart from each other, and the author constantly strikes into his favorite ideas, and mixes up the last with the first and the first with the last, while he never fails to make some headway, and he comes out under his own colors at the end. In one respect he is a brave leader, indeed, for with all his plain speeches he is no pessimist, and under the darkest cloud his faith is bright and strong. He seems to start with the idea that the human race on the whole is losing ground and running down, and that this deterioration of the race must be met by a new education that looks to nothing short of race education, alike in physical and moral and intellectual respects. He says in so many words :

"The whole of our civilization is a series of life-deteriorating processes. There is not a relation in life but tends toward race deterioration ; and like

past nations and civilizations we dig our own grave, if we fail to oppose to this degenerating tendency an education which is a persistent system of race amelioration, inspired by the spirit of altruism, the saving genius of the race, and the only possible correction of an age selfish to the core."

In other passages he recognizes the progress of the race in our time, as when, in describing the emancipation of mechanical labor from slavery and ignorance, he declares that continuance in this course by closer connection of industry with science and humanity will reduce the mortality of laborers in the land by at least 50,000 and the cases of sickness by 750,000 yearly. In some instances his statistics do not warrant his conclusion, as when he quotes the number of the deaf and dumb, the blind and the insane, in Europe and America, as proof of degeneracy in the race, when these numbers may indicate more accurate reports or more humane and life-preserving treatment, or in some cases they may be but a repetition essentially of the old story of human sin and suffering. In some respects he is on firm ground in dealing with the degeneracy of our age, as when he points out the dangers of our industrial ways of overcrowding factories and dwellings, and putting women and children to improper or excessive work. One of the best ideas in the volume is thus expressed: "The man who could discover a mode of combining manufacturing skill with isolated labor and country residence would do a greater service to humanity than the whole race of philosophers."

What we miss in this elaborate and honest and wholesome book, which we commend heartily to general attention, is a careful study of the peculiar characteristics of our age and an analysis of its besetting evils; also a philosophical statement of the true race education, with a fair appreciation of physiology and medicine, and a just recognition of the great moral and spiritual convictions that bind man to man in lifting him up to God. The author himself is right-minded, but he is not in all respects master of the social science which he honestly seeks, and he too often mistakes words for things. The great work of Prof. Oettinger, of Dorpat, on "Moral-Statistik," might help him much in the new edition, which we hope to welcome.

9.—*Studio, Field, and Gallery: A Manual of Painting for the Student and Amateur, with Information for the General Reader.* By HORACE J. ROLLIN. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1878. 12mo, pp. 207.

THIS carefully-studied manual of painting meets a decided want of our people, and it is one of the many signs of the progress of art-